



PRESS RELEASE — May 12, 2014

Communications: 972-624-3156

Mosquito season has begun

THE COLONY, Texas — The City of The Colony has followed a proactive plan of prevention and testing to address mosquito issues throughout the City for several years. Through this program, areas on public property that may hold water for periods of time are identified and monitored as potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. These standing pools of water are inspected for mosquito larvae, and if found, are treated with a larvacide which kills the larvae before it matures into an adult mosquito. This preventative measure greatly reduces the number that hatch into adult mosquitoes.

Many people think any adult mosquito can carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans. This is not true. Most mosquitoes are considered “nuisance” mosquitoes and do not carry disease, thus are of no danger. Weekly, the City sets traps at various locations to capture adult mosquitoes and tests for “disease carriers”, specifically for West Nile Virus (WNV) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). If a test comes back positive, localized treatments are applied and additional testing is done in the following weeks to determine if the treatment was effective. If subsequent tests determine the presence of disease in an area and/or human cases are confirmed in that vicinity, truck mounted adulticide treatments may take place.

In 2013 there was only one batch of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile virus in The Colony, which was consistent with a significant drop seen regionally from the 2012 outbreak. Testing so far this season has yielded negative results.

While this type of treatment may eliminate some mosquitoes, the best prevention for everyone in the community is through education and personal protection, especially for the elderly and those with health issues, by following the 4 D’s listed below:

1. **Dress to protect:** wear long sleeves and long pants.
2. **Dusk and Dawn:** avoid being outside at these times if possible.
3. **Defend:** wear insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or an effective alternative.
4. **Drain standing water:** eliminate any water that stands for longer than 5 days or treat water with larvacide according to the label.

Identifying and eliminating stagnant pools of water on private property such as unused swimming pools, hot tubs, bird baths, ponds, low areas, etc., are critical when it comes to preventing breeding grounds and hatching of adult mosquitoes. Even a ½ inch of water standing in the saucer of a flower pot can breed mosquitoes. Treating or eliminating these areas, and wearing insect repellent with DEET (or an effective alternative) when outdoors will also help to minimize exposure to the diseases mosquitoes may carry.

The City is asking all residents to be aware of and remove potential mosquito breeding grounds on their own property, and to wear protective clothing and insect repellent when outside for activities. Spring rains are often time the culprit for creating mosquito breeding grounds.

For additional information regarding mosquitoes and the City's mosquito treatment plan, contact Community Services Director Pam Nelson at 972-624-3958, via email at pnelson@thecolonytx.gov or Chemical Applicator Shane Bartel at 469-853-1222, via email at sbartel@thecolonytx.gov, or visit www.thecolonytx.gov/Depts/PARD/mosquitocontrol.html. To report standing water on private property, please call 972-624-3160, and be sure to give an address of the issue if leaving a message.

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